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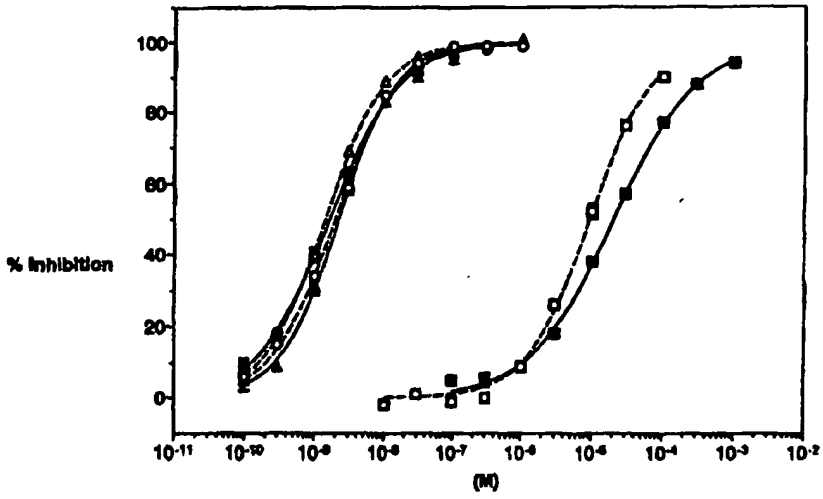
(54) Title: METABOTROPIC GABA[B] RECEPTORS, RECEPTOR-SPECIFIC LIGANDS AND THEIR USES



(57) Abstract

The present invention provides purified $GABA_B$ receptors and receptor proteins derived from rat and human sources, as well as nucleic acids which encode such proteins. The proteins and nucleic acids of the invention share significant homology with the $GABA_B$ receptor and the DNA encoding it as specifically disclosed herein. The invention moreover provides methods for isolating other members of the $GABA_B$ receptor family using DNA cloning technology and probes derived from the sequences provided herein, as well as novel members of the $GABA_B$ receptor family isolated by such methods. Furthermore, the invention relates to the use of $GABA_B$ receptors and receptor proteins and cells transformed with a gene encoding a $GABA_B$ receptor protein in a method for identifying and characterising compounds which modulate the activity of the $GABA_B$ receptor, such as $GABA_B$ receptor agonists and antagonists, which may be useful as pharmacological agents for the treatment of disorders associated with the central and peripheral nervous systems.